



MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: HILARY SUEOKA, ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS COORDINATOR
RE: SINGLE USE PLASTICS DISCUSSION

DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Summary and Background: While plastics have brought many benefits to society since their inception, certain plastics made for single use prioritize convenience without regard for their life cycle impact. Single use items such as plastic cups and utensils cause negative effects at every stage of their life cycle, from production to disposal.

In January 2021, Frisco Town Council demonstrated great leadership through adoption of Ordinance 21-01, banning single-use plastic bags ahead of the Colorado Plastic Pollution Reduction Act ([HB 21-1162](#)), which will ban plastic bags for certain businesses starting January 1, 2024. Council now has the option to stay ahead of, or even exceed state legislation through a variety of other policy options. Although the Town already has a plastic bag ban in place, additional requirements within the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act will ban polystyrene as a to-go container for certain restaurants after January 1, 2024. This upcoming change provides an opportunity to examine other single use materials commonly provided to customers within the Town, and to decide if these should be added to the list of banned materials, showing exemplary leadership for other mountain towns and municipalities in Colorado.

Analysis: Many other local jurisdictions have implemented policies to reduce single-use items such as plastic water bottles, plastic utensils, and disposable to-go boxes. Please reference the following examples for details on each type of program/policy:

- Plastic water bottle ban
 - [South Lake Tahoe, CA](#) – ban begins 4/22/23 with city facilities and special events, extends to sales citywide on 4/22/24
 - [San Francisco, CA](#) – Ordinance amended in 2014, ban applies to sale or distribution of bottled water, 21 oz. or less, on all City property; bars use of City funds to purchase bottled water
- “Skip the Stuff” (packaged condiments/plastic utensils/straws available on request)
 - [Denver, CO](#) – Single Use Accessory Restriction Ordinance went into effect January 2022, requires all retail food establishments provide single-use condiments and single use service wear only upon request by customer

- Reusable to-go
 - [Truckee, CA](#) – pilot project to offer reusable to-go box option to customers through participating restaurants
- Comprehensive ordinances
 - [Bellingham, WA](#) – local ordinance passed in 2021 requires durable reusables for on-site dining, bans most single-use plastic service wear and packaging for to-go orders, and prohibits lodging businesses from stocking rooms with travel sized toiletries
 - [Berkeley, CA](#) – local ordinance requiring reusables for on-site dining, color-coded recycling and compost bins, \$0.25 fee for disposable cups (compostable only), compostable to-go containers, and may only provide disposable accessory items on request (straws, napkins, utensils, etc.)

Financial Impact: None at this time. Financial impacts of the above policy ideas will be further analyzed depending on Town Council direction.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: Reducing the amount of single use plastic provided to customers supports implementation of Environmental Stewardship Goals and the Climate Action Plan as listed within the Sustainable Environment Strategic Priority.

Environmental Sustainability: Initiatives to reduce single-use items support the Waste goals within the Summit Community Climate Action Plan. Following Council direction, Staff will provide environmental impact analysis of selected policy option/s in a future staff report.

Staff Recommendation: Staff generally recommends a phased-in, more comprehensive policy regarding single use items including plastic, and requests input and feedback on Council priorities based on the examples provided.

Approved By:

Don Reimer, Community Development Director
Tom Fisher, Town Manager
Leslie Edwards, Finance Director